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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

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FROM:

ACCESSION NO.

DATE RECEIVED IN S. A.

25 July 49

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3820
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

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REPORT

In consequence of an ultimatum and with harsh and intentionally unacceptable conditions which were incompatible with their independence and sovereignty, the Albanian people, following several days of bloody battles, had to undergo Fascist invasion after Austria and Czechoslovakia.

In the face of hundreds of ships, whose heavy batteries fired in full force on Durres, Valona, and all the nerve centers of the Albanian coast, under constant bombardment and strafing by unopposed aircraft and artillery fire, any resistance clearly was not only impossible but useless, for it would have ended inevitably in the extermination of both the regular troops and the civilian population, who participated directly in the action.

Under these conditions the struggle could only be pursued in the mountains. The Albanians, traditionally past masters of the art of guerrilla warfare, would undoubtedly have struck terrible blows against the aggressor. However, the execution and the success of such an enterprise indubitably depended on the material and moral support which Albania had every reason to expect from Greece and Yugoslavia.

King Zog of Albania made contact with the government of the two aforementioned countries in order to find out their attitude on that specific point. The reply should have been favorable, under one form or another, for by giving material aid to Albania to pursue the struggle, Yugoslavia and Greece would at the same time be protecting their own frontiers. However, this did not happen. Greece and Yugoslavia, no doubt believing themselves safe from further aggression and desiring to

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avoid committing themselves in any way, preferred to wait and see. The events that followed dramatically illustrated the stupidity and error of such a policy.

II

The struggle continued, though with very dubious resources. To achieve their liberation, the entire Albanian population fought with all their might for four years, against the Italian invaders as well as against the Nazis. Their casualties were enormous; more than 100,000 defenders fell under enemy bullets.

Albanian Relations with Yugoslavia

As a general rule, Albania has always sought to maintain the relations of a good neighbor with Yugoslavia. The point in dispute between the two countries, of capital importance for Albania, is the existence of an Albanian minority of about a million persons living in the Kosovo area, a part of Yugoslavia.

Albanian Relations with Greece

King Zog made many efforts on several occasions to reach an understanding with Greece.

As Greek minorities live in Albania and vice versa, the two governments concluded treaties reciprocally guaranteeing and protecting their cultural liberties. However, the political atmosphere between the two countries was always clouded by the question of Northern Epirus. The purely Albanian character of this province, ethnically as well as geographically, has been recognized and ratified by many international treaties. The reports emanating from numerous commissions of inquiry responsible for

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fixing the boundaries leave no doubt on the subject. The incorporation of this province into Albania was the result of simple justice and has been ratified by the signatories of the Conference of Ambassadors. What was true yesterday is still true today.

III

In spite of all these arguments, the Greek government returns constantly to the question and seeks to recover this province, although it knows it has no right to it whatsoever.

Merely to maintain friendly relations with Greece, the Albanian Government cannot sacrifice one of its richest areas, the most important centers of which (Korce, Argirocastro, and Valona) are of capital importance for the economic life of the country.

If the Greek government were finally to relinquish its claims to Northern Epirus, relations between the two countries would take a more than friendly turn, and a definitive alliance could then be concluded.

Relations of Albania with the Western Powers

Through its strategic position as the key of the Adriatic, Albania can play a leading part in case of hostilities. King Zog is ready, under any circumstances, to grant the American government the naval and air bases the Americans consider it useful to hold. As everyone knows, the present government under Enver Hoxha owes its existence and its activity solely to the protection of the USSR. Albania has this one fundamental difference from the other satellite countries: she has no common frontier with the Soviet Union, and Soviet troops, at least officially, are not stationed there.

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According to information in the King's possession, the Albanian population is ready to rise as one man against its oppressor. All that is necessary is to introduce the necessary leavening of insurrection, and the operation can be carried out in a very short time with every hope of success. The King is convinced that the USSR will not consider it a *casus belli*. After all, King Zog's government is the only legal and constitutional government. All the laws that have been passed, all the assemblies held in Albania since 7 April 1949 /sic/ are legally null and void.

IV

The following is the plan of military action proposed by the King:

In case the Greek government does not consent to these preparations on its territory, the preliminary phase will originate from the Middle East. Emissaries in whom the King has the greatest confidence will be flown to Albania and will prepare for the uprising. Several artillery pieces would have to be delivered to the King, who can recruit many Yugoslav, Polish, and even German volunteers if the American government does not object.

Three solutions are offered:

1. If the Yugoslav government consents, the expedition can be launched from Yugoslav territory. This would be the best solution, as the Albanian volunteers would be in immediate contact with the population of the North, which is completely devoted to the King.

2. Landing directly on the Albanian coast, with a concentration of strong resistance groups at the various landing places to facilitate the execution of the operation.

Greece and Yugoslavia can offer no objection to such an enterprise. Its success would give each of them great advantages. The penetration of

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Communist elements into Greek territory from Albania would cease immediately, and the war that is consuming the Greek people would have no more reason for existence. The internal situation of the country would be peaceful again. If an Albanian government under King Zog were established in Albania, Yugoslavia would have no further reason for uneasiness as to its southern border, and every point of friction between the two countries would disappear.

It would be the same with Italy, which would find only a source of satisfaction in such an eventuality.

3. If the Greek government consents, the expedition can be launched from Greek territory.

As you requested, Colonel, this brief report contains various items of information which are in entire conformity with the conversation we had. The King is prepared, at the proper time, to acquaint the American government with all the details it may care to learn.

[Signed] MARTINI [?]

Minister of the Royal Albanian Court

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